

Status Update: Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program, FY 2010/11

This document describes CalRecycle staff's plan for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010/11 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Grant Program, which has a funding allocation for FY 2010/11 of \$1.5 million. The purpose of these grants is to assist local governments in implementing safe HHW programs which may include reduction, reuse, and collection components. Staff is providing this status update to inform stakeholders and solicit input on potential changes to the scoring criteria and project eligibility and will present its formal recommendations at the December CalRecycle public meeting.

Background

The HHW Grant Program is authorized pursuant to 47200(a) of the Public Resources Code. Over the past year, staff has solicited stakeholder input via the HHW Information Exchange meetings, the California Resource Recovery Association Conference, Final Grant Reports, and a 2010 Survey, about how HHW grant funds can best meet their specific needs. A majority of grantees indicate they are still in favor of grant funding that focuses on HHW collection facilities and operations. Considering this feedback and past program cycle evaluations, staff is tentatively planning some changes to the FY 2010/11 program offering. The changes, which are described below and which will be the subject of a formal "Request for Approval" at CalRecycle's December 2010 monthly meeting, will enable CalRecycle to cooperatively develop and implement a refocused program with grantees that will result in increased HHW diversion and facility operational efficiencies.

Overview of Planned Changes

Project Eligibility

- Limit all costs related to sharps collection to \$20,000 per grant award.
- Eliminate funding for planning and design of HHW facilities.
- Limit HHW facility construction to projects where the permitting, licensing and siting approval process is underway.

Maximum Grant Award Amounts

- Establish maximum grant award funding of \$150,000 for a single jurisdiction and \$300,000 for a regional grant program.

Proposal Scoring

- Reduce the application criteria points to 25 points (currently 100 points) and simplify scoring categories.
- Offer "Bonus Points" to Applicants who did not receive grants in the 16th, 17th or 18th grant cycles.
- Offer "Bonus Points" to Applicants that are defined as rural, underserved or small cities.

Preference Criteria

Staff is considering recommending that preference points be given to projects that include:

- Construction or expansion of an HHW facility (only when the permitting, licensing and siting approval process is well underway).
- Developing more cost-effective collection operations at an *existing* HHW facility (i.e., improving collection workflow patterns, implementing more efficient materials handling or waste exchange programs).
- Public education and outreach projects that take advantage of successful models from other jurisdictions through re-use or modification of existing materials to reduce design and printing costs.

If CalRecycle management approves these or related changes at the December 2010 meeting, then staff will post the Notice of Funds Available and application on CalRecycle's web site. Staff anticipates that grant awards would be considered for approval in May 2011.